

## **Norfolk County Council updates**

### **Volunteers Week**

[Volunteers Week 3-9 June 2024](#) celebrates the amazing contribution volunteers make to communities across the UK.

The current [Chair of Norfolk County Council](#) has a key theme of supporting and celebrating volunteers and promoting volunteering in Norfolk. This will help to promote the vital work volunteers do in Norfolk and to encourage more people to consider becoming a volunteer. If you know of any events or opportunities for him to meet volunteers and recognise the contribution they are making, please do invite him [using our online form](#).

There are many volunteer roles available, from parish councillors to school governors, and from community speed-watch members to PTA members. There are also many informal opportunities, such as befriending, litter picking, and gardening. People are encouraged to visit [Norfolk's Get InVOLved volunteering portal](#) where there are hundreds of different roles, and [NCC's website](#) to find out more about Norfolk County Council's own opportunities.

It's not just individuals that can make a difference, as businesses have a significant role to play too, from [employee supported volunteering](#) or by donating time and skills through Norfolk Community Foundation's [pro-help scheme](#).

On 7 June, there is a [volunteering extravaganza](#) at the Forum Norwich. During this event Momentum, part of Voluntary Norfolk, will be launching their brand [Flourish](#) Youth Award.

### **Bus improvements between Norwich and North Norfolk**

Residents living in the North of the county are set to benefit from the latest bus service improvements which will see more frequent buses, and later buses, operating between Norwich and Cromer/Sheringham and Holt. The increased services which are all operated by Sanders Coaches will begin on 2 June and are funded by money that Norfolk County Council secured from the Department for Transport.

Improvements include:

- A later bus back from Norwich on the X55 service at 22:40 to allow a way back to North Walsham after evenings out in the city.
- Coupled with an increased frequency to the X44/44A service which operates between Sheringham and Norwich a new fast service X41 will be added and this will allow buses to run every half an hour throughout the day Monday to Saturday between Aylsham and Norwich, This benefits those living on route in places such as Aylsham Marsham Hevingham St Faiths and Hellesdon.
- Extra buses on the fast X40 and new X41 journeys will get you to the City or Coast where you can join other services to explore Norfolk further.

- X41 fast buses will serve 3 stops in Aylsham - Burgh Road - Tesco and Norwich Road.
- With the introduction of the X41 from Burgh Road off peak 43 service buses will now serve the west of Aylsham travelling from Willow Park - via Cawston road then Norwich road on route to Norwich.

## **Government updates**

### **General election – what happens next**

The prime minister has called an election for Thursday 4 July 2024.

### **Draft timetable of key dates**

- **Thursday 30 May 2024** – the dissolution of Parliament, when all Bills that haven't made it to Royal Assent will be dropped.
- **Sometime around 6 June 2024...** - Statement of Nominated persons (candidates) likely to be announced.
- **Sometime 20ish days before the 4 July 2024...** - Manifestos will be launched by the major parties, usually within a few days of each other. The Institute for Government have noted that since 1997 they have been launched between 18 and 29 days before the election date, which would put their announcement sometime between 5 June and 16 June.
- **Tuesday 18 June** – deadline to register to vote.
- **Thursday 20 June 2024** – Bank of England will announce the Bank Rate.
- **Thursday 4 July 2024** – Polling Day.
- **Tuesday 9 July 2024** – New Parliament will be summoned to meet, election of the speaker and swearing-in of members.
- **Wednesday 17 July 2024** – State opening of Parliament.

Further information about registering to vote and how to vote is available on our Norfolk County Council webpages [here](#).

Further government information about key dates for nominating candidates and registering to vote are available [here](#).

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

james